

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 17, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HEATHER WILSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Monsignor Richard W. O'Keefe, Immaculate Conception Parish, Yuma, Arizona, offered the following prayer:

Lord of all our endeavors, give to our elected Congressmen and women the courage to follow noble aspirations, strength to support worthy causes, integrity to seek the truth, and in all of their legislative duties, be their inspiration and guide.

Lord, you remember forever Your covenant with us. Even though it was centuries ago that You formed a community of family life with us, still You remain continually faithful. Enable us by Your merciful help to keep faith with You, to renew our covenant at important or difficult moments of our life so that at the end we may receive the promise of the covenant.

Lord, to those who believe in You, You promise kindness and truth, justice and peace. When we are faced with difficulties, increase our faith, but do not lower our ideals. From the least likely places You can bring forth the triumph of Your grace. These things we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1905. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1905), "An Act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BENNETT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1059), "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. WARNER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REED, to be conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 331. An act to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

S. 559. An act to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

WELCOME TO REVEREND MONSIGNOR RICHARD O'KEEFE

(Mr. PASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and it is an honor to introduce to my colleagues and welcome to the House Monsignor O'Keefe from Yuma, Arizona, who is one of Arizona's greatest assets.

Monsignor Richard O'Keefe was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on June 14, 1959, in Ireland. Two months later he found himself serving as an associate pastor in Douglas, Arizona, and ever since that time has continued to reside in Arizona. For the past 27 years, Monsignor O'Keefe has faithfully served my constituents in Yuma, Arizona, and for the last 17 has served in the capacity of pastor of Immaculate Conception Church.

I have to tell my colleagues that he is a man who works with all segments of the community. He knows how to bring all of us together to solve the problems and bring a better quality of life to our community. His philosophy is that our government, as well as its citizens, must ensure that all residents of Arizona be given equal and fair treatment.

Monsignor's vision and commitment to education is evident, for his tireless work towards building the first Catholic church high school in Yuma. Monsignor O'Keefe is a friend, a confidante and a great asset not only to Yuma County, but to all of Arizona.

On behalf of the Congress, Monsignor, we thank you for your service to your church and to your country.

FOND FAREWELL AND SALUTATIONS TO OFFICER KEITH PICKETT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, all across America we take great pride in the work that our law enforcement personnel offer to our cities, local communities, counties and States. Today on Capitol Hill, we pay tribute to a retiring Capitol Police officer, Mr. Keith